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CHANGE YOUR HAIR, CHANGE YOUR LOVE LIFE!
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HAIR ACROSS AMERICA
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MILEY!
ON DAD, BOYFRIENDS, AND WHY SHE'S NOT A KID ANYMORE

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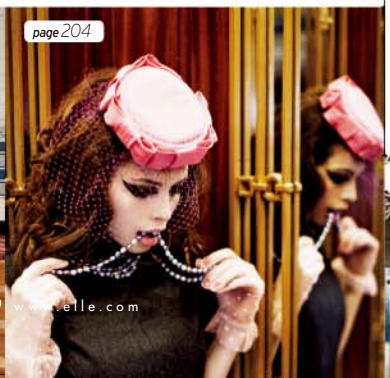
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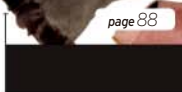
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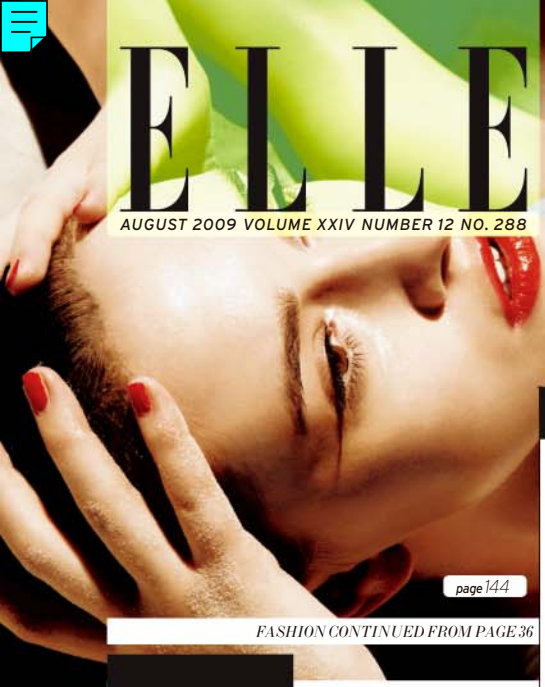
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Left: Miley Cyrus wears a leather jacket from Alexander Wang, satin bra from Myla, pavé diamond necklace from Mauboussin, diamond cross necklace from Diamond in the Rough, diamond and ruby ring from de Grisogono, and her own pendant necklace. *Center:* Cyrus wears a wool-blend top and wool skirt from Marc Jacobs, crystal necklace from Tom Binns Design, metal flower necklace from Lanvin, leather belt from J.Crew, polished silver ring from Stephen Webster, and diamond and ruby ring from de Grisogono. *Right:* Cyrus wears a cotton T-shirt, leather and Mongolian lamb fur coat, and washed denim pants from Tory Burch, and kidskin boots from Alexander Wang. For details, see Shopping Guide. To get her makeup look, try Retractable Waterproof Eyeliner in Brown, PURE Mascara in Black, Blush Me! Mono in Apricot Plaisir 6, Colorful Eyeshadow in Marie No. 14, and FACE Very Sexy Nourishing Lip Balm SPF 15, all by Sephora. Photographed by Carter Smith. Styled by Joe Zee. Hair by Harry Josh at Harryjosh.com. Makeup by Pati Dubroff at the Wall Group. Manicure by Ashlie Johnson at the Wall Group.

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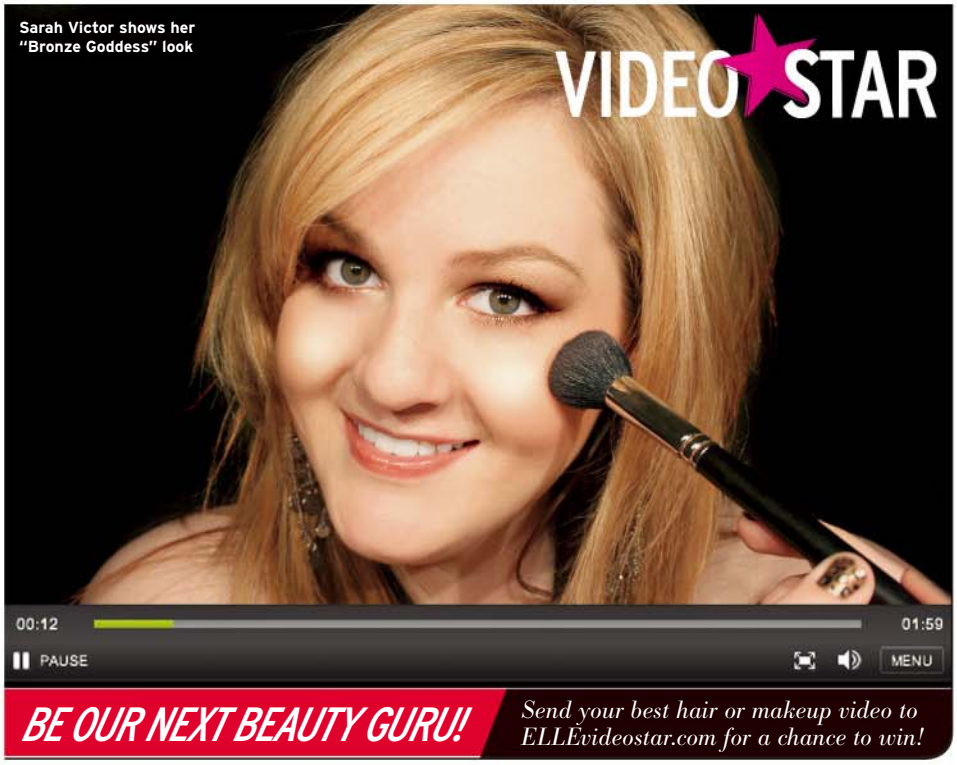
NEW THIS MONTH:

BEAUTY SECRETS
Women in NYC reveal their hair and makeup tips on video

MILEY EXCLUSIVE!
Watch the behind-the-scenes footage from her cover shoot

MODEL WISH LIST
Catwalk darlings reveal their must-haves from the fall runway

BIKER BOOTS
From simple to studded, we've scouted out the season's fiercest footwear



BE OUR NEXT BEAUTY GURU! *Send your best hair or makeup video to ELLEvideostar.com for a chance to win!*

INSIDE STORY

Play fantasy decorator with our online guide to fall's fetching, functional furniture fashions

HUMBLE ELEGANCE: At this year's furniture and housewares fairs in Milan, New York, and Paris, designers snubbed the baroque, chandeliers-everywhere decor of the recent past and instead celebrated simple craft, utilitarian shapes, and sustainable materials. IKEA's PS series, for which star Hella Jongerius teamed up with UNICEF and villagers in northern India to create folk-chic wall hangings, got as much buzz as the sleekest Italian sofas. What does the new anti-glitz mean for you? Go ahead, throw a board over some bricks and make a bookshelf! But there's still room for glamour in thrilling small doses. Visit our online gallery, curated by design trawler Julie Taraska, to peruse the best of humble elegance, along with other interior trends we can't wait to live with: brave color combinations, witty trompe l'oeil, lighthearted lighting, and more....

Last year, Dutch team Studio Job made a statement about the luxification of everyday life with its shiny gold farmhouse objects. Tellingly, this year it made serving ware in rusty iron. Inquire at *moss.com*.

Chair by Sebastian Wong and Richard Woods for Established & Sons. *Matter, NYC, 212-343-2600*

Japanese textile designer Kazuyo Nomura's blanket is part of IKEA's PS series, in select stores in early August.

Log on to ***ELLE.com/design*** *for more indoor inspiration.*

Cyrus: Retna; models: Imaxtree.com; Balmain biker boot: Devon Jarvis; Studio Job serving ware, Wong chair, and IKEA blanket: courtesy of stores; VideoStar: courtesy of subject

GIRL ON TOP

Fashion, for so many of us, is a way of communicating an idea about some aspect of ourselves that we're still exploring or starting to embrace—it can give us confidence when we're lacking it and message all kinds of wishes, desires, hopes, and alternative selves. Which is why it so often comes roaring into a girl's consciousness when she becomes a teenager, as that is the moment at which any you is still possible and every you seems viable.

Enter Miley Cyrus, who at 16 has built a worldwide following on the idea of alternate selves: one a globe-trotting megastar who sells out stadiums and CDs and movie houses, the other a devoted daughter and friend who yearns to be "normal"—whatever that means. I was fascinated by the controversy sparked by her pictures in *Vanity Fair* last year, the outrage that a teenage girl would be photographed wrapped in a sheet (wearing jeans underneath). Oh, the outrage! That someone who has traveled the world, has an army of people depending on her for their livelihoods, has both the discipline and the stamina to anchor a hit show, write and record chart-topping songs, and launch a fashion line, would do such a thing. Which is to say that for all her self-effacing jokes about her hillbilly roots and youth, this is a well-traveled, sophisticated, and very powerful young woman who was neither out of her depth nor out of the watchful eye of her parents when she faced the camera then, as she does in this month's ELLE, offering a very clear view of herself.

Her talent, as every girl in America knows, isn't just her singing or her songwriting or her ability to open No. 1 at the box office in a movie about her charming relatability—no, in fact, it's that she's genuinely a comedienne: an expressive, physical actress who's not afraid to make herself look goofy. Our interest in her now is watching her take the wheel, if you will, as she morphs from star to superstar, trying on a more mature persona in Marc Jacobs and Alexander Wang. As Disney Channel president Rich Ross told me: "So many actors look at their career in a linear way—first this, then that. Miley has created a career that is a mosaic, with pieces that often don't seem to go together but for her are a perfect fit. In 10 years, she'll accomplish a lot more as a creative artist, but I hope she is allowed to be funny. The gift of comedy needs to be celebrated, and I am sure we will need a hearty laugh in 2015 as we do now."

Contributing writer Holly Millea captures Cyrus at this inflection point and considers the rich possibilities in her future ["Girl, Uninterrupted," page 184]. The girl with Miley and her dog in the photograph above is my eight-year-old daughter, Frankie, who had the great fortune to attend our cover shoot in L.A. I fully expect to get tons of letters asking whether I'd let my little girl wear low-cut camo pants when she's 16. To which I can only say: It's my wish that at 16, Frankie will carry herself with the same poise, unfailing good manners, and genuine openness that Miley showed us on set that day. If that's true, I won't care if she walks around in a bedsheet and jeans.

Carter Smith

WILD THING

ELLE's cover girl striking a pose

What do you get when Disney's It Girl tries on the season's biker-inspired looks? Miley Cyrus' stunning transformation for ELLE's August issue. The 16-year-old singer arrived at the set in J Brand jeans, a green tank top, moccasin boots, and a vintage gold necklace from boyfriend Justin Gaston, but our styling team quickly swapped her down-home ensemble for hot neon dresses from the likes of Michael Kors and Marc Jacobs mixed with wild-child punk accents. While tunes by Kanye West, Taylor Swift, and Britney Spears played in the background, Cyrus gushed over a crocodile Alexander Wang motorcycle jacket and army pants from Tory Burch. As she moved on to a dangerously short black minidress and bondage-style over-the-knee boots, all by Rodarte, the bad-girl spirit of the shoot seemed to suddenly possess the Nashville-bred star, who then got horizontal on an old car seat for the cover shoot.

Cyrus on set

INSPIRATION

Ann-Margret in *The Swinger*, 1966

Marianne Faithfull in *Girl on a Motorcycle*, 1968

Luciana Paluzzi in *Thunderball*, 1965

Marianne Faithfull in *Girl on a Motorcycle*, 1968

THE LOOK: DISNEY DOES BIKER-CHIC

Felt hat, **MOSCHINO CHEAP AND CHIC**, *$595, call 212-632-9300*

Studded lambskin bag, **3.1 PHILLIP LIM**, *$755, at 3.1 Phillip Lim, West Hollywood*

Leather vest, **NICOLE MILLER COLLECTION**, *$1,100, at Nicole Miller Boutique nationwide*

Grommet-detail leather cuff, **ROBERTO CAVALLI**, *$790, at Roberto Cavalli Boutique nationwide*

Leather boot, **REPORT SIGNATURE**, *$475, at select Nordstrom*

Rhodium-plated sterling silver necklace, **TOM BINNS DESIGN**, *$488, at Tom Binns, NYC*

Printed cotton sweater, **JEREMY SCOTT**, *$325, at Opening Ceremony, NYC*

Leather leggings, **FRANK TELL**, *$1,195, at Outfit at Wynn Las Vegas, Las Vegas*

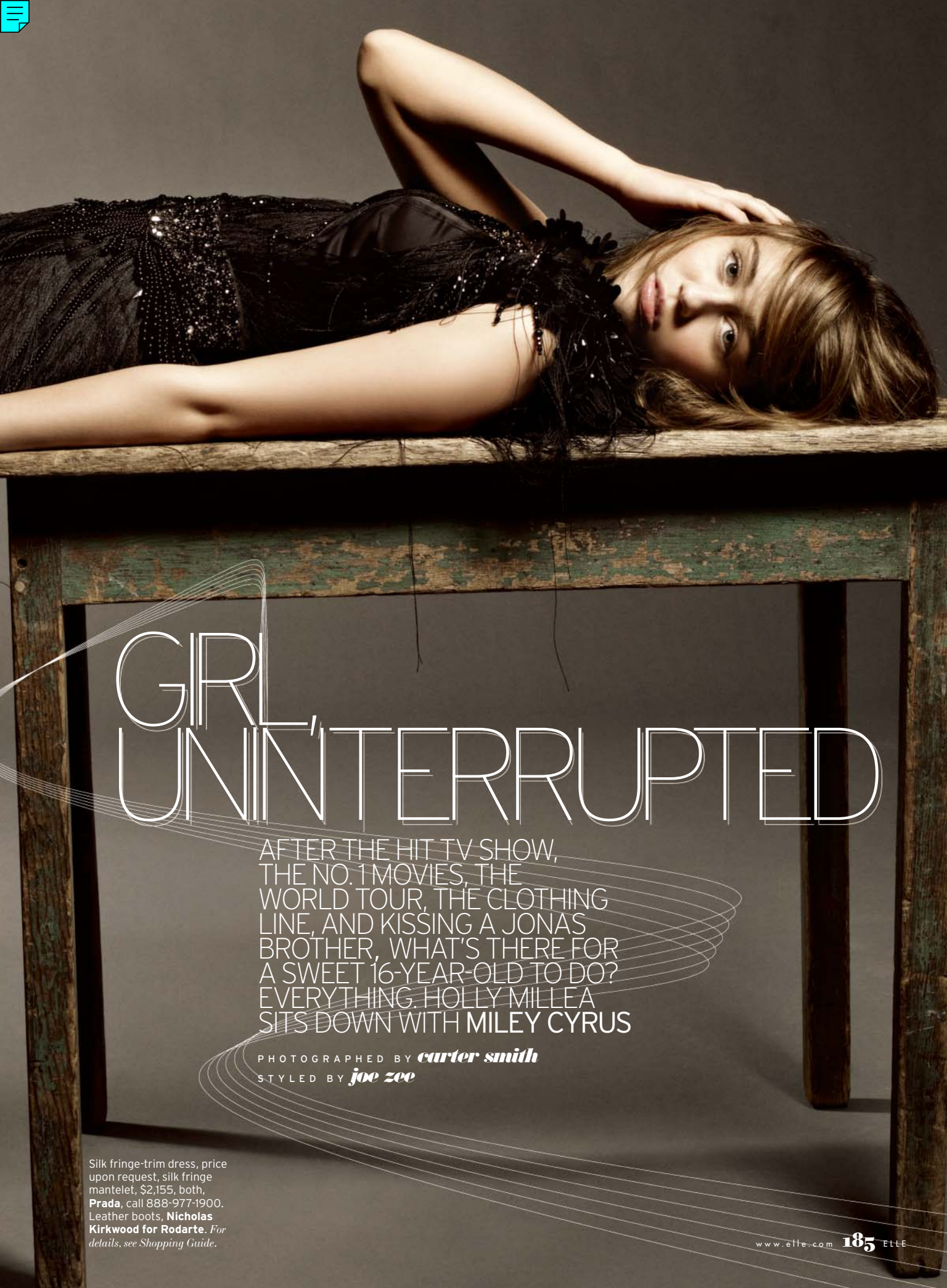
Cavalli cuff and Binns necklace: courtesy of the designers; Report Signature boot: Mark Platt (styling by Eddy Alcantara for Mark Edward Inc.); Lim bag and Tell leggings: Mark Platt (styling by Anita Salerno for RJ Bennett Represents); remaining still lifes: Devon Jarvis (styling by Bill Laughlin for Mark Edward Inc.); Cyrus: Annie Ladino; all film stills: courtesy of the Everett Collection; for details, see Shopping Guide

PERFECTLY POLISHED

This month, we're shattering stereotypes. Disney superstar Miley Cyrus gets a grown-up makeover in fall's chicest leathers and studs. *Mad Men*'s lead housewife January Jones shows off her modern side in Versace's gunmetal looks. And in an ELLE exclusive, uptown girl Rachel Roy broadens out from her romantic designs with the debut of a lower-priced, streetwear-inspired line. Even the season's girliest frocks get a devilishly seductive new style. Certain things are better left unchanged, which is why we also offer you the best of the New York collections, where spirited American sportswear is still riding high.

Cashgora sliced asymmetrical sheathdress, **MICHAEL KORS**, *$1,595, at Neiman Marcus. Chain-link necklace,* **MICHAEL KORS**, *$700, at Michael Kors stores nationwide. Mother-of-pearl and diamond bracelet,* **MAUBOUSSIN**, *price upon request, visit mauboussin.com. Diamond and ruby ring,* **DE GRISOGONO**, *price upon request, visit degrisogono.com. For details, see Shopping Guide.*

Photographed by Carter Smith; styled by Joe Zee (hair by Harry Josh for Harryjosh.com; makeup by Pati Dubroff at the Wall Group; manicure by Ashlie Johnson at the Wall Group)



GRL, UNINTERRUPTED

AFTER THE HIT TV SHOW, THE NO. 1 MOVIES, THE WORLD TOUR, THE CLOTHING LINE, AND KISSING A JONAS BROTHER, WHAT'S THERE FOR A SWEET 16-YEAR-OLD TO DO? EVERYTHING. HOLLY MILLEA SITS DOWN WITH **MILEY CYRUS**

PHOTOGRAPHED BY *carter smith*
STYLED BY *joe zee*

Silk fringe-trim dress, price upon request, silk fringe mantelet, $2,155, both, **Prada**, call 888-977-1900. Leather boots, **Nicholas Kirkwood for Rodarte**. *For details, see Shopping Guide.*

Leather and Mongolian-lamb-fur jacket, price upon request, cotton T-shirt, $125, washed denim pants, $295, all, **Tory Burch**, at Tory Burch, NYC. Kidskin boots, **Alexander Wang**, $690. *For details, see Shopping Guide.*

here are giant oatmeal cookies, thick, chewy brownies, and milk chocolate bonbons galore; sugar-sweet cereals, buckets of Twizzlers, hot buttered popcorn, and more; strawberry shortcake with baseball-size berries and homemade whipped cream to explore… Oompa-Loompas and Everlasting Gobstoppers aside, Willy Wonka's chocolate factory has nothing on the Disney Channel's *Hannah Montana* set, a junk food paradise where children of all ages and crewmembers of all sizes avoid the platters of fresh vegetables and sandwiches like the plague.

At the center of this teen idyll is the most golden of the Golden Ticket holders, Miley Cyrus, otherwise known as Hannah Montana, the secret pop-star alter ego of TV high-schooler Miley Stewart. She's the one over there in the red BeDazzled jacket and pink rhinestone fingerless glove, the one with two multiplatinum albums, a sold-out concert tour, two hit films, a best-selling autobiography, and a new clothing line. Right now she's the one having to literally act her age—16—in a scene where Miley's sorry for complaining about her best friend, Lilly (Emily Osment), and her "squeaky, leaky" pet hamster behind her back. "As miserable as I was," Cyrus is saying, "I was 10 times more miserable when I came back and my best friend was gone." The girls hug, the director cuts, and the caged rodent keeps spinning his wheel. Cyrus flops down on the twin bed, stares at the hamster, and says to no one in particular, "Why does he think that's fun?" She lets out a deep laugh. "That mouse is running crooked like he's drunk!" A set photographer asks the costars to pose together, to which Cyrus, feigning diva, replies, "You'll have to call my agent."

Past the sets of Miley's bedroom; the Stewarts' Malibu kitchen; Rico's Surf Shop on the beach…down one long corridor and then another, is Cyrus' dressing room, where her grandmother Loretta "Mammie" Finley is sitting where she sits every day, in an alcove, armed with a letter opener, surrounded by postal buckets overflowing with fan mail. Still a great beauty, she wears a silvery white bouffant and black rhinestone glasses. "I open it all," Finley says in a soft Southern lilt. She holds up a stamped 8" x 10" envelope self-addressed in curlicue handwriting. "They send one of these, and I send them back an autographed picture." Her slender, manicured hand picks up a letter. "Some of them are sick," she says, her voice sad. "We send those letters to the Make a Wish Foundation. Every week we have a Make a Wish kid who's terminally ill visit the set. Had one today."

Yapping at Finley's heels are Cryus' pet Yorkies, Rodeo and Sophie, the latter having just had knee-replacement surgery. Suddenly, Cyrus comes running down the hall, ducking behind a side curtain. Tearing back out, she's trailed by a lanky, dark, dreamboat of a guy carrying a guitar. This would be Justin Gaston, boyfriend, aspiring musician and actor, and God-fearing Christian, who has a scripture verse, Psalms 7:8, tattooed down his back: "Judge me, oh Lord, according to my righteousness." He's often referred to as an underwear model, having posed in Hugo Boss, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Diesel skivvies. His girlfriend finds this annoying. "He was younger when he did that. He was 18, 19!" she says. He's 20 now. And according to the publicist giving the tour, he's running away from me.

Gaston is a semipermanent fixture here behind the curtain, which opens to reveal a cozy little loungelike area decorated with couches, flower lamps, and blown-up photographs of the New York City skyline and Marilyn Monroe. He and Miley were introduced by her dad, country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, who, before costarring on *Hannah Montana* as Miley Stewart's father, was best known for his mullet and 1992 monster hit "Achy Breaky Heart." It was during his hosting gig on last year's *Nashville Star*, the country version of *American Idol*, that Billy Ray took a shine to Gaston. When the young Tennessean was voted off in tenth place, Billy Ray looked into the camera and declared, "This kid is gonna be a big, big movie star. I'm callin' it right now. Tom Cruise, look out!" (Funnily enough, Cruise was here on the *Hannah* set yesterday. "His son, Connor, is job-shadowing me," Miley says. "I guess he wants to be an actor. He's really cute!")

Her reaction to Gaston was less enthusiastic. "My dad showed me a picture of him, and I'm like, 'He's okay,'" Miley recalls. "He said, 'You don't think he's really hot?' And I was like, 'He's not really my type. Too pretty.' He was like, 'What? You're the only girl that's not freaking out about him right now.'

"[Justin] came to the set with my dad in September because my dad was helping him write some music. My dad said, 'Hey, I have a surprise for you.' And I'd been wanting a puppy. And my first words out of my mouth when I met him were, 'You're not a puppy.' He thought I was, like, just funny. I literally looked so ugly. I had my hair slicked back, baggy jeans, Nikes, just so bad, and my glasses. He was trying to make conversation with me, like, 'Do you wear those glasses for fashion, or do you really need them?' I was like, 'I really need them.' And we just started talking. We're together, and then again, we're not. Some people see us more as friends and don't get why we work in a relationship. They're like, It's weird, best friends shouldn't date! But the person that you eventually spend the rest of your life with—I'm not saying it's him—why are you going to wake up with someone every day and not want to hang out with them?"

Here comes her friend now, strolling back down the hall, strumming his guitar, head slightly bowed, a small smile on his face. Most parents would meet this guy and lock their daughters up. They'd keep their wives away from him too.

Gaston braves an introduction. Asked if he's the entertainment around here, he answers, "Wouldn't be me." So, is it true he's set to star in an HBO drama produced by Simon Fuller's company? He cocks a heavy eyebrow, strums a chord, and says, "I don't know." That smile again. A mention of his brief TV appearance as a high school jock on *Glee* last night turns his expression forlorn: "Man, they cut my one line."

"How's it goin', homies?" Miley Cyrus arrives at her favorite Japanese restaurant and gives her publicist a hug. (She's old enough to drive, but until she turns 18, she can't do anything work-related without an adult chaperone.) Cyrus consumes sushi the way most kids eat fast food: "This is the fifth night in a row for me." Long-limbed and curvaceous, wearing tight, faded jeans and a deep-cut V-neck charcoal tee, she looks both older and younger than her years. Her face is still round with baby fat, and free of teenage acne. She has her grandmother's big blue doll eyes and a rosebud mouth and small white teeth that slightly overlap. "I like these crooked," Cyrus says, touching the front two. "I love my teeth. My dad won't let me fix my teeth or cut my hair. He loves it. He's like, 'It's you!'"

At a time when world fortunes are falling, Cyrus is the head of a booming billion-dollar franchise. Disney might argue the semantics, but as her father says, "With or without the wig, the voice is Miley's, the talent is Miley's, the laughter is Miley's. Hannah is undeniably Miley." Which is not to say that Cyrus is simply playing herself. She has the comic timing, rubber-faced reactions, and precision pratfalls of a budding Lucille Ball. There's no shortage of self-deprecating, Lucy-like Miley antics that warrant an "Oh, Rick-eee!" Add to that the voice—the depth and strength reminiscent of Linda Ronstadt or of Rosanne Cash, whose late,

Left: Studded leather vest, **William Rast**, $750. Leggings, **Guess**, $39, visit guess.com. Kidskin boots, **Alexander Wang**, $690. Her own necklace. *Above*: Wool-trim leather jacket, looped fringe wool dress, both, **Rodarte**, prices upon request, visit rodarte.net. Leather boots, **Nicholas Kirkwood for Rodarte**, price upon request. *For details, see Shopping Guide.*

Studded leather jacket, $700, lace top, $400, both, **William Rast**, visit williamrast.com. Her own necklace. *For details, see Shopping Guide.*

great father, Johnny, is Cyrus' favorite singer. She can hold her own on a stage in front of 50,000 screaming tweens with only a guitar, singing by herself, and can bring them to a reverent silence with the opening chords of "The Climb," a song she wrote herself. Last year, she ranked No. 35 on the *Forbes* Celebrity 100 power list; her annual income was $25 million. Next year her numbers will improve. "Disney works you like crazy once they get a hold of you. Miley's a good example of that," says Osment, whose role as Lilly was the one Cyrus originally auditioned for. "They make sure she's everywhere and promoted very well."

"It's kinda crazy right now, my schedule," Cyrus admits. "I'm a busy body." In short succession, she is starting a new film, *The Last Song*, written expressly for her by novelist Nicholas Sparks (*The Notebook*, *A Walk to Remember*); going on tour; and launching her own clothing line with Max Azria for Wal-Mart. "Oh my God, I'm so stoked! It's a lot of peasanty, flowy tops, hippie and loose and sexy, like boho chill mixed with English-rocker-esque—plaids, studs, rips, cool colors. The jeans are my favorite part of the entire line. Because, like, literally, this is going to be good for, like, Middle America, and it will be great for kids that really want to be in fashion but they don't have it available. I'm really into high fashion. The jeans, like, literally, I would pay $500 for the jeans that we make for $20."

> "There are so many people that could be using you. Me and Nick Jonas and Demi Lovato, we got our own thing going on," Cyrus says.

Cyrus speaks at auctioneer speed, a Valley Girl by way of Nashville, which is where she was born in 1992. Billy Ray and Tish Finley married a year later, *Brady Bunch*-ing with her two children, baby Miley, and, eventually, two more, a brother, Braison, and a sister, Noah. Tish, a former ballerina, is a producer on *The Last Song*, and all five kids are born entertainers. "Our lives have always been in the big tent of the circus," Billy Ray says. "The kids grew up in that tent. Show business has always been the cornerstone of our livelihood. It's what we do."

Paging through the family photos in her autobiography, *Miles to Go*, you can see especially in Miley the mutual camera love. It's the reason she went in for the supporting role and walked out with the lead. "She always had a calling," her father says. "You couldn't keep her off the stage. If she was at the show, she was on the stage. She grew up around Carl Perkins, Dolly Parton, Waylon Jennings.… It rubbed off." One night at an Elvis tribute in Memphis, Billy Ray and such stars as Melissa Etheridge, Dwight Yoakam, and Aaron Neville were singing the "Amazing Grace" finale when two-year-old Miley "crashed onto the stage and started singing," he recalls. "And everyone was passing her around, and at the end, Tony Bennett handed her to me and said, 'You got a special little girl here.' Something special happened that night." He'd birthed the entertaining equivalent of *The Good Seed*.

Billy Ray has taken a media beating over what some see as his daughter's overexposure and the consequent exposure it affords him. But he was a multiplatinum-record-selling star in his own right. And given his daughter's obvious drive to do what she's doing, what better way to keep a parental eye on her? Then there was the brouhaha over last year's *Vanity Fair* portrait of Miley wrapped in a sheet—it provided about as much coverage as some of the designer gowns she wears at awards shows. "Look, she's growing up, as much as we wish she wouldn't," says Sparks, who has daughters of his own. "I think everybody, when they watch *Home Alone*, wishes Macaulay Culkin were nine years old, but he's not. People grow up! I think considering the amount of media scrutiny she gets, she's pretty good."

"Teenagers will be teenagers—gotta give them room to go," Billy Ray says. "We talk about a lot of things she's going through. I'm a friend first and foremost, then a daddy, and then a business partner." A matchmaker, too. "I'm not going to talk about that," he says. "It's important to me to keep things between us. Miley's got enough people criticizing her and pointing fingers."

For all its fun, fame, freebies, and fortune, teen stardom can be a tough row to hoe. It's bad enough that the field is littered with the bodies of the formerly famous. Just think of the Heathers and other haters whose joy is to make your rarefied life miserable. "The bullying at school was literally too much to handle," says Demi Lovato, Disney's *Sonny With a Chance* star. "It was like, Why are people being rude and mad at me right now? I realized something else was behind it—they were jealous. That's why I left. Selena [Gomez] got homeschooled with me to get me out of the depression I was in." She yelps, "Oh, Miley just texted me from YogurTree: 'Want anything?' That girl can eat anything and not gain a pound!" It's refreshing when, in speaking with these junior mints, they remind you that they're typical of their age too: "Of course we're into boys!" Lovato says, like *duh*, at one point. "We're teenage girls!"

And yet, they're not typical. "It's hard for all of us," Miley says. "That's why me and Nick [Jonas, of the Jonas Brothers] are so close, and me and Demi are so close. There are so many people that could be using you. So me and Nick and Demi, we don't need anything from each other. We got our own thing going on. I'm close with Taylor [Swift], too."

Time is the teen idol's greatest antagonist. Do you leave the field of your own accord, or stay to age another day? "I told Miley yesterday, at this stage of the game, whatever she does I just hope that it brings her happiness," Billy Ray says. "It doesn't matter to me if she wants to do another season of *Hannah*; I'll be there. If she wants to go back to Tennessee and ride horses, I'll do that. The only reason she should do anything is for her happiness. She don't have to put up with this bullshit—the blood-sucking leeches that use you for everything they can use you for, man, and throw you out on the streets. It's the nature of the business. I hate the music business. I love the music." Does he think Hollywood is easier to deal with the country music world? Billy Ray laughs. "They got a lot in common," he says. "It's that same mentality—egos, money. I'm gonna leave you with this: Music, art, love, passion—that's why the Cyruses do what they do. Bottom line."

In 20 years, who among the rich crop of child stars will turn up on reality shows like *Celebrity Fit Club*, *The Surreal Life*, *Confessions of a Teen Idol*, *Sober House*, or *I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here*? "I'm one of the few survivors," says the biggest teen idol of all time, David Cassidy, who was 20 when he was cast as Keith in *The Partridge Family*. "Being older made a huge difference. All I have to say is, look at Danny Bonaduce. A lot of these kids have their lives taken away. I was an adult playing a kid. At one point I was like, 'Hey guys, when am I going to get older? I've been playing 17 for three

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Studded leather jacket, **William Rast**, $700. Leggings, **Kensie**, $28, at select Dillard's nationwide. Kidskin boots, **Alexander Wang**, $690. *For details, see Shopping Guide.*

HAIR BY **HARRY JOSH FOR HARRYJOSH.COM**; MAKEUP BY **PATI DUBROFF FOR THE WALL GROUP**; MANICURE BY **ASHLIE JOHNSON AT THE WALL GROUP**; PROPS STYLED BY **STEVE HALTERMAN AT STARDUST VISIONS**; FASHION ASSISTANT: **ANNIE LADINO.**

WHO'S WEARING THE PANTSUIT NOW?

(CONTINUED FROM *page 175*)

says. "Tina couldn't leave anyone out." It was not that Gillibrand fancied herself the second coming of Marie Antoinette, it was that she had a knack for collecting friends—which would prove one of the most useful traits in political fundraising. "Her whole life, she has had an enormous number of people around her who like to be around her," Bartley says. "And she capitalized on that."

After Gillibrand was appointed to Hillary Clinton's seat, *The New York Times*, in a front-page feature, revealed the kind of legal work that she was doing as a hard-driving associate at Davis Polk: advising Philip Morris in its battles with the federal government over cigarette smoking. Nothing in the *Times* article suggested any violation of legal ethics by Gillibrand, but working for tobacco companies is not generally considered a shrewd way for liberal Democratic politicians to burnish their image.

When confronted with a tough question—even one that she is expecting—Gillibrand's style is to angrily stare at her inquisitor and repeat talking points in the hopes that the messy business will simply vanish. When I ask whether she has any regrets over her work for a cigarette company (she continued to work for Philip Morris' parent company, Altria, when she moved to the prestigious law firm of Boies, Schiller as a partner in 2001), Gillibrand replies with a chill in her voice: "It's not how I see it. The way I see it is that I worked very hard at Davis Polk. I worked on all the cases assigned me; I didn't pick and choose. I got the best legal training in the world. And what I want to do now is to use all the advocacy skills to make a difference."

Maybe it was coincidental, but as tobacco became a pariah industry, Gillibrand began to display restlessness and doubts about her legal career in private practice. "I'm a problem-solver," she says. "And when I was in a law firm, I felt like those talents were going to waste." While at Davis Polk, she became active in political fund-raising in New York through the Women's Leadership Forum of the Democratic National Committee. Former Hillary Clinton aide Karen Finney, now a Gillibrand consultant, says, "She absolutely was an excellent fundraiser even before she was in Congress."

In the waning days of the Clinton administration, Gillibrand left New York for a stint as special counsel to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo, who may challenge Paterson for governor in the 2010 Democratic primary. "She was intense and a climber," recalls a Clinton administration official who worked with Gillibrand during this period. And as Gillibrand's mother puts it, "I think when she got to Washington with Andrew, she solidified her desire to go into politics. At that point, she was just looking to see where she could find an opening."

Doug Rutnik's mantra, which he passed on to his daughter before her initial 2006 House campaign, is: "If your skin isn't thick, don't get into politics." In the first weeks after her Senate appointment, Gillibrand demonstrated that she possesses the epidermis of a crocodile, appearing unflappable in public as both her political rivals and the press awarded her a Bronx cheer. An early February *Times* story on the new senator's wobbly start in statewide politics began with the lede: "That smile never disappears."

Whether it was visiting a Brooklyn high school where a student had been killed by gunfire or meeting with Hispanic groups to display a newfound sensitivity on immigration issues, Gillibrand seemed to critics like a politician undergoing a full makeover. "This was so transparent, so abrupt," says Ross Baker, a political scientist at Rutgers University. "It surprised people with its speed. There was nothing thoughtful about it. It is hard to look at her conversion and think that it was motivated by anything other than political expediency."

Asked to respond to this comment, Gillibrand argues, "Most people who enter the Senate have the benefit of a year-and-a-half campaign to travel the state and to create a legislative agenda.… If you want to be judgmental, that's fine, but I have to be an effective senator and represent the needs of all constituents when I have a responsibility to do so. And so when I met with immigrant groups and I met with New Yorkers against gun violence, I was briefed by the very urgent needs in our state."

But even at her lowest political ebb, Gillibrand was blessed with powerful allies. Bill Clinton appeared at a fundraiser for his wife's successor. Schumer took his nonthreatening junior colleague under his wing, or, as Gillibrand puts it, "He always looks after me." And, most important, the White House decreed in mid-May that it did not want a bruising 2010 primary fight and to underscore that the fix was in, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee issued a press release hailing Long Island Congressman Israel's orchestrated decision to mute his ambitions and stay in the House.

Some of Senator Gillibrand's earliest adversaries have either been impressed by her reinvention or are realistic enough to bow to the inevitable. Veteran Brooklyn Congressman Edolphus Towns, who escorted Gillibrand through the grittier sections of his mostly African-American district, says, "I happen to like her. She's a hard worker, and the key thing for me is that she's somebody I can work with." Peter Rivera—the Hispanic state legislator who not long ago decried Gillibrand's xenophobia—now is a supporter. "Some of my colleagues are not impressed with her," Rivera concedes. "They think she's an opportunist. I think she's a strong advocate for immigrant issues. Some people consider that a flip-flop. I consider it an act of courage for her to moderate her views."

Gillibrand may still face a September 2010 challenge from Manhattan Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, who is signaling that she's poised to run but faces the daunting challenge of raising the more than $8 million needed to have a chance in a statewide Democratic primary. With President Obama and the Clintons on her side, it's difficult to think of another woman in national politics who has been granted the opportunities of a Kirsten Gillibrand. For the heiress to the seat once held by the lionized Bobby Kennedy, by scholar-statesman Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and by the path-breaking Hillary Clinton—legends all—this is the moment to make a difference in ways that transcend mere fundraising prowess and political survival. ●

GIRL, UNINTERRUPTED

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years." At 15, Cassidy's daughter, Katie, was offered a record deal. "I told her she couldn't go into the business until she graduated from high school," Cassidy says. "And she thanks me every day." Now 22, she's an actress who costarred with Liam Neeson in *Taken.*

Nearly 40 years after *The Partridge Family* first aired, David Cassidy is starring in *Ruby & The Rockits*, a new series on the ABC Family network. He and his real-life brother Patrick play brothers from a Hall & Oates–type '80s band who enlist David's teenage daughter Ruby (20-year-old Alexa Vega from *Spy Kids*) to form a rock group. You can hear the pitch: *The Partridge Family* meets *Hannah Montana.* "It's not *Hannah Montana* at all," Cassidy protests. "It's much more adult, more satire. It doesn't have any of the silliness. It's got writers from *Frasier* and *Seinfeld.*" Cassidy has to go to the studio to record with the Rockits. "Keep an eye on Alexa," he says. "She could be Miley and then some."

Miley Cyrus is calling from the back of a limo on her way to the MTV Movie Awards, where she's nominated for Best Breakthrough Performance for a Female for *Hannah Montana: The Movie* (she lost) and Best Song From a Movie for "The Climb" (she won). Next week, she's shooting the Sparks film in Savannah, Georgia. "I play a rebellious teenager who gets mixed up with the wrong crowd," Cyrus says. "She's a really dark person. It's a cool role for me." Cyrus lists Julia Roberts ("she comes off charming"); Jennifer Aniston ("one of the most underrated people"); and Meryl Streep as actresses she most admires.

Before going on location, Cyrus will end her relationship with Gaston. Fans could follow the fallout via the Twitters of the former lovebirds:

Miley, June 4, 12:33 P.M.: "my heart is in two…and it's all because of you." a song I am starting to write. :)

Justin, June 5, 9:38 P.M.: haven't been this miserable in a looong time…I thought high-school was over.

Miley, June 7, 5:30 P.M.: why does saying goodbye hurt so much?

Miley, June 7, 5:50 P.M.: Daddy's giving me therapy. This is worth 10000000 dollars.

Miley, June 8, 9:53 A.M.: Life will go on. You will smile again…we will smile again.

Justin, June 8, 10:29 A.M.: How many tears are in there? They've gotta run out soon, right?

Parting is such sweet sorrow, especially at 16, with a global audience. It will be interesting to see which of her talents will prevail. "Miley reminds me of Madonna—her work ethic," says movie director Brett Ratner, who directed Madonna's "Beautiful Stranger" video and Cyrus' "7 Things." "In a time when you don't need to be talented to be famous, she's good enough that she wouldn't have to work that hard, but she does." But will Cyrus have a post-*Hannah* film career? "As you get older, you change," Ratner says. "I wasn't the most talented director in the world, but I worked hard to have success. She works harder than any young person I've ever met."

She has just signed for a fourth year on *Hannah Montana*; she'll play a high school junior. Cyrus could end up going to the senior prom after all—if it's in the script. "I went to a real one once with a friend," she says. "The most fun thing about prom is having that one special night when you dress up and you feel like a princess, and honestly, I get to do that one night a lot." ●